Submissions

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Submission Preparation Checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- ✔ The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
- ✔ The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word, or RTF document file format.
- ✔ Where available, URLs for the references have been provided.
- ✔ The layout of the template has not been changed.
- ✔ The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the Author Guidelines.

Author Guidelines

Submitting an Article Online

Article Types

Hardware Metapapers

Hardware Metapapers are structured summaries of open hardware projects. Word limit: 4,500 words

This section is peer reviewed.

Issues in Open Hardware

Issues in Open Hardware papers present research on the context of open hardware, for example the significance of new techniques to the practice of open hardware, critical approaches to open hardware and legal, social or economic issues in open hardware. Word limit: 6,000 words

This section is peer reviewed.

Educational Hardware

Educational Hardware describe a piece of hardware in a specific pedagogical context focusing on its educational use. Word limit: 4,500 words

This section is peer reviewed.

Reviews

Reviews can cover topics such as current controversies or the historical development of studies, issues of regional or temporal focus, summaries of the technological state of the art of an instrumentation type. Papers should critically engage with the relevant body of literature. Word limit: 5,000 words

This section is peer reviewed.

Author Guidelines

Submissions should be made electronically through this website. Once submitted, the author can track the submission and communicate with the editors via the online journal management system.

Please ensure that you consider the following guidelines when preparing your manuscript. Failure to do so may delay processing your submission.

All word limits include referencing and citations.

Structure

Hardware Metapapers and Educational Hardware

Please download the article template and fill in the required sections.

DOC

Issues on Open Hardware and Reviews

Title page

The title page must include all of the below information, in the same order. No further information should be included:

- **Title**
- **Full author name(s)** Author names must include a forename and a surname. Forenames should preferably not include only initials.
- **Affiliation(s)** The affiliation should ideally include Department, Institution, City and Country, however only the Institution (if applicable) and Country are mandatory.
- **Corresponding author's email address** (other author email addresses are optional)

Abstract
Research articles must have the main text prefaced by an abstract of no more than 250 words summarising the main arguments and conclusions of the article. This must have the heading 'Abstract' and be easily identified from the start of the main text.

A list of up to six key words may be placed below the abstract (optional).

The Abstract and Keywords should also be added to the metadata when making the initial online submission.

Main text
The body of the submission should be structured in a logical and easy to follow manner. A clear introduction section should be given that allows non-specialists in the subject an understanding of the publication and a background of the issue(s) involved. Methods, results, discussion and conclusion sections may then follow to clearly detail the information and research being presented.

Up to three level headings may be present and must be clearly identifiable using different font sizes, bold or italics. We suggest using Headings 1, 2 and 3 in your word processor's 'Style' section.

Acknowledgements (optional)

Competing interests
If any of the authors have any competing interests then these must be declared. A short paragraph should be placed before the references. Guidelines for competing interests can be found here.

Ethics and consent (if applicable)
Research involving human subjects, human material, or human data, must have been performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Where applicable, the studies must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee and the authors should include a statement within the article text detailing this approval, including the name of the ethics committee and reference number of the approval. The identity of the research subject should be anonymised whenever possible. For research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study must be obtained from participants (or their legal guardian).

Experiments using animals must follow national standards of care. For further information, click here.

References
All references cited within the submission must be listed at the end of the main text file.

Hardware documentation

Any submission that describes one or more hardware designs requires the deposition of a detailed description and documentation of the hardware in a suitable repository (see list of recommended repositories). While the reviewers of your submission mainly assess the accuracy and quality of the metadata rather than the documentation, there will be a minimum level of quality check on this documentation. Hardware documentation must include:

• The source (e.g. schematics, modifiable CAD files, board designs, etc)
• Any useful intermediate files (e.g. fabrication-ready PCB files, STL files for 3D printing)
• An indication of the intended audience, and resources required to build it
• Description of the project's functionality
• Explanation, where appropriate, to help the reader understand why design decisions were taken
• Complete assembly instructions, ideally with photographs, diagrams, etc.
• Calibration and testing instructions
• List of parts, ideally with supplier details
• Sufficient information to recreate any custom parts required

This list forms part of the acceptance criteria for the journal.

Openness, quality, accessibility

Submissions also have to comply with the OSHWA definition for open source hardware:

- Source files must be under an open hardware compatible license that permits others to study, modify, distribute, make, and sell your hardware.
- You may require anyone building on your work to release their designs under the same conditions to increase a common pool of contributed hardware design files (referred more generally as reciprocal licensing).
- You should apply either a reciprocal or a permissive license to meet the OSHWA definition to your project documentation. Reciprocal licenses include hardware-specific ones from CERN and TAPR. Permissive licenses include Solderpad license. More information on hardware licensing is available from OSHWA.

Style guide

For detailed instructions on language and text, data and symbols, figures and tables and references, please, see the JOH style guide.

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Articles

Section default policy

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